# Leeds Early Career Publishing Prize supporting information

## What is the Prize?

The Leeds Early Career Publishing Prize is a pilot initiative from the University of Leeds. It seeks to celebrate Early Career Researchers and support the prize winners in exploring publication of the research in their Doctoral thesis as a monograph.

In drafting the submission, authors will have to present an effective proposal for a monograph based on their thesis.

A shortlist of up to five prize-winners will be selected by a University of Leeds panel.

Prize winners will receive a £250 prize, and have their proposed monograph celebrated at the Early Career Prize event. The prize can also be listed on the prize winners’ academic CV.

The Leeds Early Career Publishing Prize is organised in conjunction with White Rose University Press (WRUP), the Open Access (OA) press supported by the Universities of Leeds, Sheffield and York. Prize winners will see their monograph proposal taken through the full WRUP commissioning process (including peer review), with the WRUP Editorial Board commissioning those monographs which meet their rigorous requirements. Part of the prize will see any publishing fees paid, and commissioned authors will be fully supported through the publishing process.

Monographs would be published as Open Access using a Creative Commons Licence, making them free to access globally to everyone (further detail below). This maximises the potential reach of the research.

## Who is eligible?

Leeds University PhD students whose Doctoral theses appeared on a pass list in 2017, 2018 or 2019, and meet at least one of the following criteria:

* Thesis awarded without corrections or subject to editorial and presentational corrections only.
* Candidate received a Letter of Excellence.
* Candidate received a strong recommendation to publish as a monograph in the examiners comments.

We can only consider theses in a format that would work as a text-based monograph (ie not ones that are performance or practice based, or by publication). We do welcome proposals that include digital media to enhance the content eg use of audio, video, 3D modelling etc. While the original thesis can be in a different language, the proposed monograph would need to be written in English. We cannot accept submissions from those who have already published or have secured agreement to publish work based on their thesis.

## Who is this prize for?

This prize is for those who are interested in the advantages that publishing an open access (OA) monograph could give in terms of career progress. There are currently expectations around a growing commitment to OA monograph publication by funders and for the next REF. If you are committed to maximum dissemination of your research to the widest possible audience but lack of funding for publication is a barrier then do consider applying.

It is important to understand the two elements of the prize.

The first part sees the selection of the final list of prize winning proposals. The second sees the proposal taken through the WRUP peer review and commissioning process, with the hope that this will result in publication of the monograph proposed.

The two parts of the prize are linked and submission of a proposal is a commitment to follow the process through publication, if selected as a prize winner. This means that authors need to be able to commit to doing the work required to turn their thesis into a monograph, as these are very different research outputs.

You will have to engage with the peer review and editorial process, using feedback to develop the manuscript to its maximum potential. You must also be satisfied with WRUP as publisher. While the University of Leeds completely understands an academic’s right to publish where they choose, WRUP’s relationship with Leeds means they are confident in the quality of both the publication process and output, and in the cost effective model used. This maximises the number of prize winners we can support through publication. WRUP’s open access model also connects with the institutions’ commitment to supporting the open access agenda.

You will also have to commit to not submit your proposal, or others based on the same thesis or research, to other publishers until the shortlist is finalised. Prize winners will be committed to publishing their proposal with WRUP.

Entering the prize commits you to engage with all the elements. If you are not comfortable with any of the elements of the prize, please discuss your concerns or ask any questions before submitting by contacting: ecpublishingprize@leeds.ac.uk

## When is submission open?

The 2020 prize competition is open for submissions from 10 Feb–30 September 2020.

## How do I enter the prize?

Complete the [Early Career Publishing Prize application form (DOCX)](https://library.leeds.ac.uk/downloads/download/185/leeds_early_career_publishing_prize), working with your Supervisor.

The application form asks for information about you, your thesis, your proposed monograph, and how you will turn your assessed work into this different format.

The form must include a supporting paragraph from your PhD supervisor, and quote directly from the examiners’ report on suitability for publication. There is also a place where you can supply the details of someone who has agreed to act as an Academic Mentor (see below).

Once complete, your Supervisor should submit the form along with a sample chapter of the proposed monograph to: ecpublishingprize@leeds.ac.uk

## What work is needed by the supervisor?

As a supervisor, you may wish to encourage a former student to make an application. Or a student may contact you to support their application.

You will need to complete the supervisor’s section of the application form, and submit the completed form, along with the sample chapter, on behalf of the author.

If you also act as academic mentor, you will need to commit to helping the author through certain aspects of the publication process.

## What is an Academic Mentor?

We understand that early-career researchers have a range of publishing experiences. Some may not have extensive experience of publishing processes or peer review. It is important to have someone with this experience who can advise from an academic perspective, for example on how to respond to peer review comments.

For many, their Supervisor will be an obvious choice for this. Others may find a different colleague more appropriate. If that is the case, the details of the mentor need to be included on the application form.

As an academic mentor, you need to commit to helping the author through certain aspects of the publication process. For example, they may need help processing and responding to peer review feedback if this is not something that they have had experience of. They will need to select which elements of the feedback they need to take on board and which they should decline to incorporate. They may also need advice in judging how best to evolve the manuscript based on the feedback they want to use.

There will be two key points when they are likely to need input: at the point of proposal peer review, and at the point the completed manuscript is sent for review.

You should have a discussion with the author to gauge whether they feel they would benefit from or require support at other stages, for example, the initial planning and work to change the thesis into a monograph. You need to be open with the author about how much support you can offer.

## What work will authors need to do?

The amount of work involved will depend significantly on how much effort is required to turn the piece of assessed work into a monograph for a wider audience. This will differ depending on the research and how the thesis has been presented, but you will need to rework the structure and the way the research is presented.

There is a good deal of information available on what is required to turn a thesis into a monograph, and we recommend that you explore this information to properly understand what is involved. Thinking about this and capturing it in the proposal is a key element of the submission. It is important you feel able to undertake the work that is needed and that it does not result in undue pressure given other workload or commitments.

Incorporating relevant feedback from peer reviewers and the WRUP Editorial Board will also be important to the success of the project, and you will probably want to discuss this with your Academic Mentor. This will also take time, which will differ depending on the scope of the feedback.

You will need to be involved in the stages of the production process. You will need to review the work of the copyeditor, indexer and sign off the typesetting work by proofreading the book. WRUP will be able to work with you to create a schedule that works around your other commitments.

There will be practical considerations too. If your thesis contains third party content, WRUP can help you make sure you have the right permissions to use this content in a published book, which will differ from those you needed to use for your thesis.

This may sound like a significant amount of work, and it may well be, but it will be required over different phases of publication, and WRUP will work with you to ensure the timescales are realistic.

## What happens after submission closes?

When submission closes, the entries are sent to the School that awarded the PhD, where they will be reviewed to check they meet the criteria. The School then forwards its shortlist of submissions to a central panel of Leeds academics from across the range of disciplines. The panel will review the full range of submissions and finalise the list of prize winners based on the quality of the proposals. All those who have submitted a proposal will hear the outcome of their submission.

## What happens to the prize winners?

Prize winners will be invited to a University of Leeds event to celebrate their success, and will receive a financial prize of £250.

The prize-winning proposals will be passed to WRUP who will contact the authors and talk them through the process in detail. This will follow the normal WRUP commissioning and publication process:

* Proposal peer review.
* Editorial Board review of proposal, peer review, and author response.
* Editorial Board give decision to commission, ask for revision, or reject the proposal.

If commissioned, the author works up a manuscript based on the commissioned proposal, and provides any other content (images, figures, and other multimedia content). All publication fees will be paid as part of the prize. When ready:

* Manuscript peer review confirms suitability for publication.
* Editorial Board review the manuscript peer reviews, and author response.
* Editorial Board communicate any required work before the sign off the project into production.
* The final manuscript is taken into production and goes through the normal processes (copyediting, typesetting, indexing etc.). WRUP will work with the author on the design of the volume and cover, and on marketing.

The monograph will be released in a range of formats and offered freely via the WRUP website. Print on demand copies can also be ordered for payment.

There will be a dedicated monograph launch event at the University of Leeds.

## Who are White Rose University Press?

WRUP is a not-for-profit open access digital publisher of peer-reviewed academic journals and books, publishing across a wide range of academic disciplines. We are run jointly by the Universities of Leeds, Sheffield and York.

We are committed to open access dissemination of research and teaching materials, ensuring academic quality, and supporting innovation in digital publishing. We work closely with authors during the development and production stages, and in marketing and raising awareness of publications. Our monographs are published to a high standard, are indexed in OA indexes and in library catalogues, and are available through JSTOR.

WRUP opened in 2016 and in 2018 published its first monographs. In under 2 years on release, WRUPs first monographs – the archaeological volumes on *Star Carr* –have a combined view and downloads totals of over 20,000. This is due to the scale and visibility of the Star Carr project. Our volume the diaries of Madeleine Blaess has been viewed/downloaded approaching 3000 times in just over 12 months on release.

As an open access digital publisher, White Rose University Press is committed to supporting the growing move to open scholarship.

## What does Open Access mean?

Open access (OA) publications are primarily digital and are made available free of charge without the need for user authentication, meaning they can reach a global audience. One of the main benefits of open access is that this content is available to all, regardless of location, status or economic situation. It expands the potential audience beyond those who have access to expensive academic resources, meaning that practitioners and policy makers can be informed by current scholarship.

Open access publishing also removes barriers around the sharing and reuse of content, allowing academics to build on research published by others, maximising the value (academic and financial) from research projects. It opens up new opportunities to combine existing findings with new research to expand academic horizons, and enables interdisciplinary collaboration in a new way.

WRUP OA content is published under [Creative Commons Licences](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/) which ensure that copyright remains with authors. You retain ownership of your work: how your work can be shared, used and reused depends on the Creative Commons Licence applied. Full attribution is required to accompany all reuse and dissemination. As WRUP is not-for-profit, and the aim is to disseminate content for free, authors do not receive royalties.

## Rules, Terms and Conditions

### Rules

1. Proposals must be based on Doctoral theses submitted to the University of Leeds and have appeared on a pass list in 2017, 2018 or 2019.
2. The thesis should have been awarded without corrections or subject to editorial and presentational corrections only. Applicants who received a Letter of Excellence or a strong recommendation to publish in the examiners comments will also be considered.
3. The thesis must be of a format that works as a text-based monograph (eg cannot be performance or practice based, or be by publication).
4. The monograph will need to be written in English (though the underlying thesis can be in a different language).
5. The application form must include a supporting paragraph from the PhD supervisor, and quote directly from the examiners’ report on suitability for publication.
6. A sample chapter of the monograph should be included.
7. The proposal should detail how the thesis would be reworked to be an effective monograph, what the audience would be, and where it will sit within the literature already published in the area.
8. Applicants should not have already published, or look to publish, their monograph with other publishers during the selection process

### Terms and conditions

1. The successful monograph proposal(s) will be commissioned and published based on the normal peer review and selection process of the WRUP Editorial Board.
2. Ideally, any commissioned monographs will need to be submitted as a final manuscript 8 months from the point of commissioning, but absolutely no later than 12 months.
3. Final manuscripts will undergo a final round of peer review to inform the Editorial Board’s decision to send the manuscript into production.
4. The decisions whether to shortlist, commission and take to production will be based on the quality of the monograph proposal/manuscript and not the quality of the thesis on which the monograph is based.
5. The WRUP Editorial Board reserves the right to require revisions as suggested by the peer review process or their own discussions on the project. If an author chooses not to engage with the editorial process and make the required revisions, the Editorial Board may choose not to commission the volume or to send to production.
6. The decisions of the shortlisting body and the WRUP Editorial Board are final.
7. As an open access not-for-profit publisher, WRUP will publish the monograph under a Creative Commons licence to facilitate the sharing and reuse of the content. The ownership of the content will remain with the author.
8. The author will undertake to secure all relevant permissions to use 3rd party content in the final published volume (images, text from other sources etc). These permissions will differ from those needed for use in the original thesis.
9. The publishing element of the prize has no financial equivalent, and no profit will be made from the sale or distribution of the monograph for WRUP or the author.
10. It will not be possible to provide feedback to unsuccessful applicants.

## Where can I find more information about the prize?

For more information about the prize visit the [Leeds Early Career Publishing Prize website](https://library.leeds.ac.uk/publishing-prize).

You can also send questions to the dedicated prize email address: ecpublishingprize@leeds.ac.uk